



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
NO. LTC # 279-2005

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager
DATE: November 8, 2005

SUBJECT: **NORTH BEACH OCEANFRONT PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES - A TWO-DAY COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKSHOP**

The Planning Department has rescheduled the above workshops which had to be cancelled due to Hurricane Wilma. Following are the new dates and times:

- **Thursday, December 1, 2005 3:30 PM – 7:00 PM at the Dezerland Hotel and**
- **Saturday, December 3, 2005 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (includes lunch) at the North Shore Park Youth Center Auditorium.**

The parks and public spaces that will be discussed include: North Shore Open Space Park, Altos del Mar Park, Ocean Terrace, the Beachwalk and North Shore Park (east of Collins Avenue). All the parks and public spaces will be covered in both workshop segments so that citizens who can only attend one segment will have the opportunity to give input on any portion of the study area.

The goal of the workshops is to discuss the problems and opportunities of different spaces in the oceanfront parks system and share ideas for improvement relative to the types of activities and uses that the parks could accommodate. We intend to involve a large number of stakeholders and community organizations in a meaningful way. Workshop participants will be taken on walking tours of segments of the parks.

Hopefully, we will gain a better understanding of how the North Beach oceanfront public spaces are currently used today, and reach consensus on a vision for the future.

The workshop will be facilitated by Project for Public Spaces, Inc. (PPS), a non-profit organization based in New York City, in collaboration with the Planning Department and Capital Improvements Office. PPS is a world-renowned expert in the design and management of public spaces (<http://www.pps.org/>). They assist communities in transforming public spaces into vital places, with programs, uses, and people-friendly settings that highlight local assets, spur rejuvenation and serve common needs.

The outcome/product of the North Beach oceanfront spaces place evaluation workshop will be a report of the findings to be presented to the Planning Board and the City Commission. This will provide an approved program for the design of Altos del Mar Park by the Landscape Architecture firm of Falcon and Bueno. It will also provide priorities for use of Miami-Dade County bond funds in North Shore Park, as well as a blueprint for future grant applications. Furthermore, the study has the potential to inspire and stimulate more interest from the private and public sectors to fund further refinement and prioritization of recommendations for implementation in a holistic way.

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C: Jorge Gomez, Planning Director
Jorge Chartrand, Acting CIP Director